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cont.

33. The enclosure according to claim 32 wherein the plurality of cooperating connector parts are releasably connected.

34. The enclosure according to claim 33 wherein the cooperating connector parts cannot be accessed for repositioning from outside of the storage space.

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are currently pending in the application. New claims 31-34 are presented for consideration.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 11, 13, 18, 20-22, 28, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

By amendment herein, the applicant has addressed the alleged problems identified in paragraphs 3-5 of the Action. In light of this amendment, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is requested.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over U.S. Patent 4,426,935, to Nikoden, Jr. (Nikoden), in view of German Patent No. 4127893 (Heisele). Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-30 is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to characterize the first and second connector parts as releasable from each other by accessing and repositioning at least one of the first and second connector parts from within the storage space with the securable enclosure in the assembled state.

Applicant submits that Nikoden is not properly combinable with Heisele and, even if combined, the structure recited in claim 1 is not rendered obvious. Nikoden teaches panels having integral threaded male elements which require separate nuts to secure the panels together. Nikoden does not teach or suggest first and second connector parts fixedly attached for cooperation on any two connected panels.

The Examiner relies on Heisele for the disclosure of first and second connector parts on adjacent elements which are connectable without separate parts. However, Heisele appears to show a mechanism usable strictly at an external location for maintaining a closure element in a closed state. One with the combined teachings at hand would not be motivated to construct the panel structure surrounding a storage space as in Nikoden using cooperating elements as in Heisele. At best, if one were to combine Heisele's teachings with Nikoden, one would incorporate the latching structure in Heisele on the pivoting door on Nikoden at an external location.

Applicant's enclosure in claim 1 specifically characterizes the first and second connector parts as releasable from within the storage space. It is respectfully submitted that one would substitute the latch mechanism in Heisele for the bolts in Nikoden only using hindsight with the benefit of the applicant's disclosure. The mere disclosure of a latch mechanism on the outside of a closure element does not, in combination with Nikoden's teachings, suggest to one skilled in the art that the bolts in Nikoden might be replaced by latch mechanisms accessible only from within storage space.

The Examiner suggested that Heisele teaches a mechanism for "securing panels of an enclosure and biasing one panel to another". It is respectfully submitted that biasing

a door to a closed position is a distinctly different concept than maintaining two panels in assembled relationship potentially through the use of only the connectors. Beyond this, Heisele's latch is shown in a typical location for this type of structure, i.e., on the outside of a storage space, rather than within.

Claims 2-21 depend cognately from claim 1 and recite further structural detail to further distinguish over the cited art.

Claim 22 has been amended to characterize the first and second connector parts as connected by accessing and repositioning at least one of the first and second connector parts from within the storage space.

As noted above, Heisele shows his structure as an external structure to secure a closure element. Nothing in the combined teachings of Heisele and Nikoden teaches or suggests cooperating connectors accessible and repositionable from within a storage space.

Claims 23-30 depend cognately from claim 22 and recite further significant structural details that further distinguish over the cited art.

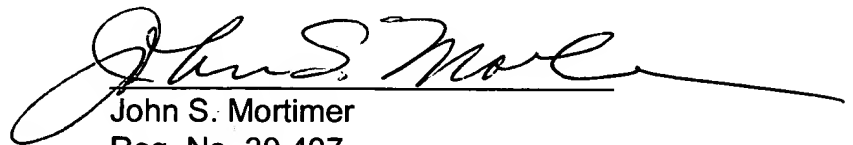
Claim 31 is similar to claim 22 but characterizes the connector parts as releasably connected to each other. The first and second connector parts are releasable from each other by accessing and repositioning at least one of the first and second connector parts from within the storage space.

New claims 32-34 are presented for consideration and are believed to patentably distinguish over the art cited by the Examiner.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-30 and allowance of the case are requested.

The additional claim fee of \$78.00 is enclosed. Should additional fees be required in connection with this matter, please charge our deposit account No. 23-0785.

Respectfully submitted,


John S. Mortimer
Reg. No. 30,407

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ,
CLARK & MORTIMER
500 W. Madison St., Suite 3800
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 876-1800

Date: 8-12, 2002

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3-5, 7, 17, 18, 20, 22, and 28 as indicated below.

1. (Twice Amended) A securable enclosure, the securable enclosure having a front opening, said securable enclosure comprising:

a top panel;

first and second side panels;

a rear panel,

the top panel, first and second side panels, and rear panel being connected to each other with the securable enclosure in an assembled state to bound a storage space accessible through the front opening;

a first connector part fixedly attached to one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel; and

a second connector part fixedly attached to another one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel,

the first and second connector parts [being connectable] releasably connected, each to the other, without requiring any additional separate parts to maintain the one and the another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel together with the securable enclosure in the assembled state,

wherein the first and second connector parts are releasable from each other by accessing and repositioning at least one of the first and second connector parts from within the storage space with the securable enclosure in the assembled state.

3. (Twice Amended) The securable enclosure according to claim 2 wherein the lock hook is accessible for movement thereof only [through the front opening] from within the storage space with the securable enclosure in the assembled state.

4. (Twice Amended) The securable enclosure according to claim [2] 1 wherein the top panel is releasably [connectable] connected to each of the first and second side panels and rear panel through at least first and second pairs of releasable cooperating connector parts with [one of the releasable cooperating connector parts being fixedly attached to one of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel and another of the cooperating connector parts being fixed to another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel,] the connector parts in the first pair of cooperating connector parts provided one each on a) the top panel and b) one of the first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel, the connector parts in the second pair of cooperating connector parts provided one each on c) the top panel and another one of the first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel, the connector parts on the at least first and second pairs of releasable cooperating connector parts being [connectable] connected, each to the other, without requiring any additional separate parts.

5. (Twice Amended) The securable enclosure according to claim 1 wherein the securable enclosure further comprises a front frame panel for a closure element and the front frame panel is releasably [connectable] connected to at least one of the top panel, first side panel, and second side panel through at least first and second pairs of releasable cooperating connector parts [with one of the releasable cooperating connector parts being fixedly attached to one of the front frame panel, top panel, first side panel, and second side panel and another of the releasable cooperating connector parts being fixedly attached to another of the front frame panel, top panel, first side panel, and second side panel,] the connector parts in the first pair of cooperating connector parts provided one each on a) the front frame panel and b) one of the top panel, first side panel, and second side panel, the connector parts in the second pair of cooperating connector parts provided one each on c) the front panel and another one of the top panel, first side panel, and second side panel, the connector parts in the at least first and second pairs of releasable cooperating connector parts being [connectable] connected, each to the other, without requiring any additional separate parts.

7. (Twice Amended) The securable enclosure according to claim 6 wherein [with the closure element in the closed position,] the cooperating connector parts cannot be accessed for repositioning from outside of the storage space.

17. (Twice Amended) The securable enclosure according to claim 16 wherein the plurality of connector assemblies maintain the top panel, first and second side panels, and rear panel together with the securable enclosure in the assembled state without requiring any separate fasteners.

18. (Twice Amended) The securable enclosure according to claim 1 wherein a first of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel has a locating post thereon, and another of the top panel, first side panel, second side panel, and rear panel has a locating slot thereon [to receive] which receives the locating post with the securable enclosure in the assembled state.

20. (Twice Amended) The securable enclosure according to claim 19 wherein the locating post comprises a neck with an enlarged head on the neck, the enlarged head is [movable] moved into the locating slot by moving the first panel in a first direction in a first line with the first and another panels in a first relative position, and the slot is configured so that with the enlarged head moved through the slot, shifting of the first panel relative to the another panel transverse to the first line to a second relative position causes the enlarged head to act against the another panel to thereby block movement of the enlarged head out of the slot by movement of the first panel parallel to the first line oppositely to the first direction.

22. (Twice Amended) A securable enclosure[, said securable enclosure having a front opening and being placeable selectively in an assembled state and a disassembled state, said securable enclosure] comprising:

a plurality of panels that are connected together with the securable enclosure in an assembled state to bound a storage space accessible through the front opening,
a first connector part fixedly attached to one of the panels; and
a second connector part fixedly attached to another one of the panels,
the first and second connector parts being [connectable] connected, each to the other, without requiring any additional separate parts to releasably maintain the one and the another panels together with the securable enclosure in the assembled state,
wherein the first and second connector parts are connected by accessing and repositioning at least one of the first and second connector parts from within the storage space.

28. (Twice Amended) The securable enclosure according to claim 22 wherein a first of the panels has a locating post thereon and another of [two] the panels has a locating slot thereon to receive the locating post with the securable enclosure in the assembled state.

Please add new claims 31-34 as follows:

31. A securable enclosure comprising:
a plurality of panels that are connected together with the securable enclosure in an assembled state to bound a storage space accessible through a front opening,
a first connector part fixedly attached to one of the panels; and
a second connector part fixedly attached to another of the panels,
the first and second connector parts being releasably connected, each to the other,
without requiring any additional separate parts to releasably maintain the one and the another panels together with the securable enclosure in the assembled state,
wherein the first and second connector parts are releasable from each other by accessing and repositioning at least one of the first and second connector parts from within the storage space.

32. An enclosure comprising:

a plurality of panels that are connected together with the enclosure in an assembled state to bound a storage space accessible through an opening.

the plurality of panels having a plurality of cooperating connecting parts fixedly attached to the panels, which cooperating connecting parts are releasably connected with the enclosure in the assembled state to maintain the securable enclosure in the assembled state without requiring any additional separate parts,

wherein the plurality of panels in the assembled state bound a storage space.

33. The enclosure according to claim 32 wherein the plurality of cooperating connector parts are releasably connected.

34. The enclosure according to claim 33 wherein the cooperating connector parts cannot be accessed for repositioning from outside of the storage space.